

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Policy Committee**

**Minutes of December 18, 2024 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Richard Bayus, Barry Beamish (for Terrie Godde), Harry Burdett, James Juhnke (for Tracy Myers), Derek King, Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, Kristine Parsons, and Steve Skalski  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Laveta Hardish  
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Terry Martin, and Michele Zawerucha

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI 49037.

**ROLL CALL**

Burdett asked all members and staff in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Skalski, supported by King, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-35**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-36**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- After the November elections, new members from Emmett and Bedford have been invited to join the Policy Committee. Franklin had an email conversation with Terrie Godde, new Supervisor for Bedford Charter Township.
- Deb Belles, former Supervisor for Emmett Charter Township, called and expressed her gratitude to BCATS for the work performed in Emmett over the past several years, and for her experience on the BCATS Policy Committee.
- Franklin attended the City of Battle Creek Commission meeting on December 3rd, 2024 to accept their proclamation recognizing the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” national enforcement and awareness campaign. The City of Springfield, Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, and Emmett Charter Township also recognized this campaign and provided copies of their proclamations for BCATS files.
- After a successful millage initiative for the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, Ride Calhoun, an invitation has been drafted to have TACC join both the Technical and Policy Committee. BCATS Committees will have to update their Bylaws to add TACC/Ride Calhoun membership and assignment of votes. TACC is being proposed to be a financially participating member of BCATS.
- Calhoun County Road Department was successful in the FY2027 Local Bridge Program call for projects. Two projects were selected within the BCATS area: bridge preventative maintenance work on both the Custer Drive bridge over the Kalamazoo River, and the Raymond Road bridge over the Kalamazoo River.
- MDOT has awarded two Shared Streets and Spaces grants to the BCATS area: one to Battle Creek Transit for solar-powered bus stops (\$195,500), and one to City of Springfield for transportation connectivity improvements at Springfield Schools Memorial Park (\$160,850). The highly competitive Shared Streets and Spaces Grant awards support quick-build projects led by incorporated cities and transit agencies, aiming to improve plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, bus stops, parking areas, and other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and strengthened commerce. (Only 35 grants awarded, Springfield 1/27 and BCT 1/8).
- MDOT is receiving a \$551,000 ATTAIN (Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation) program grant from FHWA to improve public transit vehicle safety. Specifically, the grant will fund the installation of thermal imaging cameras on public transit vehicles with Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan as one of four MDOT selected pilot participants. Research shows that thermal imaging cameras on public transit vehicles can help prevent pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and save lives, as well as potentially prevent deer/vehicle conflicts, and save on vehicle repairs.
- MDOT has received a Pollinate Program grant, from a public/private partnership sponsored by University of Illinois at Chicago and Stantec (an environmental consulting company). This grant

will specifically allow MDOT staff to purchase wildflower seed mix for the prairie restoration at the Turkeyville Rest Area just outside of the BCATS area. [The project aims to restore 14 acres of former farmland to tallgrass prairie with a diverse mix of grasses and flowering plants, to serve as a safe refuge and connector habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinating insects.]

- The FY2024 Obligated Projects Report, an annual federally required list of projects authorized for funding within FY2024 (having ended September 30, 2024), has been completed and posted to the BCATS website.
- Franklin worked with Rehmann and the City of Battle Creek Finance department on the FY24 (ended September 30, 2024) audit. Franklin anticipates final documents in January.
- Franklin has completed the FY24 Final Acceptance Report, compiling all FY24 invoiced information into a single packet format for MDOT Planning (an annual requirement).
- Franklin is also working with MDOT Office of Commission Audits on the close out of the prior FY22 and FY23 BCATS related audits/contracts.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Policy Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025**

Franklin reviewed the draft BCATS Committee meeting schedule proposed for Calendar Year 2025. Franklin highlighted the Technical Committee meetings are the second Wednesdays of the month, and the Policy Committee meetings are the fourth Wednesdays of the month, with exceptions in July, November, and December due to holidays or staff availability.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Skalski, to approve the BCATS Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-37**

#### **B. Performance Measures – 2025 Safety Targets**

Franklin discussed the annual Transportation Performance Measures Safety prediction setting and coordination that occurred between MDOT and statewide MPOs, including BCATS. Safety predictions in five categories are set annually by the State in response to federal requirement. The State, in line with their Strategic Highway Safety Plan, has set declining targets for 2025, with the request that BCATS plan and program projects locally that support achievement of the predictions/targets. BCATS has supported the State safety targets locally for all previous iterations of Performance Measure target setting, and Franklin requested this approach continue.

**It was moved by King, supported by Parsons, to approve support of the State's Performance Measures – 2025 Safety Targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-38**

**C. Performance Measures – 2025 Adjusted Pavement & Bridge Targets**

Franklin discussed the mid-performance period for the Transportation Performance Measures Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, and System Performance prediction setting and coordination that occurred between MDOT and statewide MPOs, including BCATS. Predictions/targets in the categories of Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, and System Performance are set every four years, with both a two-year and four-year prediction federal requirement. Halfway through the four-year performance period, the State can adjust the prior four-year prediction should the State not have met the prior two-year prediction sufficiently, or if the methodology changed at all during the performance period. MDOT advised on three adjusted targets this mid-performance period, affecting Interstate Good Pavement; Non-Interstate Good Pavement, and Bridge Poor Condition by deck area. BCATS has supported the State pavement and bridge targets for all previous iterations of Performance Measure target setting, and Franklin requested this approach continue for the adjusted targets.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Skalski, to approve support of the State's Performance Measures – 2025 Adjusted Pavement and Bridge Targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-39**

**D. Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization 2024**

Franklin discussed the 2024 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization campaign, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over". This is a BCATS' annual outreach effort, as part of an overall safety conscious planning initiative. Additionally, Franklin had provided all member agencies with an example resolution of support for this annual safety campaign to act upon.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to approve the Chair signing a resolution on this Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization campaign for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-40**

**E. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #13**

Franklin discussed the proposed Amendment #13 to the BCATS' current FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and answered questions.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to approve the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #13, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-41**

**F. FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Draft Project Prioritization List**

Franklin highlighted the work outcome of the BCATS TIP Subcommittee from early November. The group met and produced a fiscally constrained list of local road and transit projects for the forthcoming TIP, due to be adopted in May 2025.

**It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Draft Project Prioritization List, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-42**

**G. Election of 2025 Officers for Policy Committee**

Chair Burdett presented a proposed slate of officers for the 2025 term, with Burdett continuing as Chair, Avis continuing as Vice Chair, and Skalski continuing as Secretary/Treasurer.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to reelect Harry Burdett as Chair, Mallory Avis as Vice Chair, and Steve Skalski as Secretary/Treasurer of the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-43**

**H. Report from Study Management Committee – CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Burdett asked the Committee to enter into a Closed Session to discuss a BCATS personnel matter. Guests were asked to leave the room. Franklin was asked to remain with the Committee for the Closed Session. The Committee entered Closed Session at 1:54 p.m.

The Committee returned from Closed Session at 2:06 p.m. Guests were invited back into the room.

**It was moved by Leiter, supported by Kremer, to approve the recommendations of the Study Management Committee regarding BCATS personnel, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-44**

**I. BCATS Policy Committee Bylaws – Draft Update**

Franklin reviewed a proposed update to the BCATS Policy Committee Bylaws. The proposed update to the Bylaws is to add the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County/Ride Calhoun as a

financially participating member of the BCATS Policy Committee, with an assignment of votes typical of a financially participating member.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Skalski, to approve the update to the BCATS Policy Committee Bylaws, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-45**

## **COMMENTS**

### **A. Next Meeting**

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for January 22, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

### **B. Committee Member Comments**

Kremer reported that the pedestrian refuge area project on Dickman Road near Barberry Drive is delayed until the spring with the onset of winter. The I-94 bridge project has concluded, with some night paving work still to be completed in the spring (parking lot at the Battle Creek rest area). Operations and safety funding has been identified for a potential roundabout project at Columbia and Main St/Beadle Lake Road. The Marshall Modernization design work continues, with the focus on the work in Marshall Township (any BCATS area improvements would be in a later phase).

Leiter named Christin Berry as his alternate to the BCATS Policy Committee.

Parsons reported the townships 2025 local road project proposals have been received and are being scored by the County Road Department, with recommendations to be listed at the County Commission January meeting.

Burdett reported that the Springfield Schools Memorial Park received both the transportation grant that Franklin mentioned during Communications, as well as a second parks grant to fund the proposed improvements.

Avis reported that the City of Battle Creek and the City of Marshall are both currently working to transfer the Federal Transit Administration designated funding recipient status to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, anticipated to be complete by the beginning of FY2026 (October 1, 2025). The transition of human resources would occur a year later (FY2027; October 1, 2026). The previously awarded \$1.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (Senator Peters) will serve the TACC as startup expenses. The City of Battle Creek on behalf of the TACC will be asking BCATS for a TIP amendment in the near future to see those funds obligated.

King reported that citizen's have expressed interest in MDOT, Calhoun County Road Department, and City of Battle Creek coordinating on operational improvements to the intersection of 6 Mile Road at Beckley Road, especially the left turning movement from northbound 6 Mile Road to westbound Beckley Road, where it goes down the short hill to M-66/I-194. That particular left turn movement backs up regularly. Citizens would like to see double left turn lanes for 6 Mile Road onto Beckley Road. The short hill on Beckley Road towards M-66 allows for little queuing room. Skalski and Kremer informed that the ongoing corridor traffic study is looking at these types of recommendations. Additionally, King reported on citizen's interest in the traffic congestion on Beadle Lake Road at I-94 and E Drive North.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.